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A MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT ♦♦♦

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The Cree Board of Health & Social Services of James Bay

Christmas and the New Year is the time when many celebrations are taking place. The majority of these parties involve some excessive drinking and this consumption of alcohol to the extreme could lead to devastating consequences.

When alcohol is present within the body, the person's equilibrium is unbalanced, vision is reduced, and judgement and behaviour are impaired. This could lead the person to make the wrong decisions. Combining alcohol with other drugs can make intoxication much more effective and dangerous. Even a small amount of alcohol with any type of drugs can seriously impair a person's ability to drive a vehicle. In reality no amount of alcohol is safe and acceptable while driving.

Within Eeyou Istchee, the majority of motor vehicle accidents are alcohol related. Some of these crashes could have been prevented, if some prior precautions were taken.

This Holiday Season, we urge people to drink responsibly and take time to plan ahead. If you are planning to attend a party where alcohol will be served and driving is necessary, you should seriously consider delegating someone you know as a designated driver. This will eliminate a lot of serious problems in the end. Responsible drinking means limiting the amount of alcohol you consume and recognizing when you have had too much to drink.

If you drink, do the right thing, do not drink and drive.

Have a happy and safe Holiday Season.

"Striving to maintain and
promote the health of our people"
Miyupimaatsiwin aa uhchi pimipihihtaakinuwich utih iiyuu aschiichh

Direction de santé publique des Terres crie de la Baie James
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Paying it forward...

Ouje-Bougoumou reaches out

by tsa

In the last issue of the Nation, we included two pages of events and dinners and donation points and the like, telling you who was doing what for whom and where. While fishing for all that information, we learned of one woman who was away on a mission in a developing country. Jane Longchap was one of the contact people for Christmas baskets in OJ. The Women's Ministry she belongs to has been collecting donations for some of the littlest ones in Pikogan, Quebec.

However, the desire to give goes beyond that. "Everything we have (here in OJ) is new and it's beautiful and we started saying that its time for us to get other people involved," Longchap says. "We thought we should bless other people since God blessed us so much, so then other people can bless other people and so on and so on."

She recently returned from three weeks in the African countries of Uganda, Malawi and Kenya, where she visited orphanages, raised spirits and left gifts. Longchap, her husband, and 11 others traveled to Africa with the goal of supporting the "housemothers." These are the women who take care of the many children who have lost their parents to famine, disease and war. Each woman has four boys and four girls under her care.

The group of 13 from Canada brought 33 hockey bags weighing 70 pounds each. They were full of "blessing bags" containing toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, facecloths, underwear, shampoo, lotions and so on. They also brought material, needles and thread, quilts and blankets, towels, new and used clothing.

The women arranged for a retreat where they held a fashion show. After which all the outfits were given to the housemothers. The men kept themselves busy by helping to build the orphanages with the tools they had brought as gifts.

When asked how the gifts were received, Longchap sighs, gushes and struggles to hold back tears. "It was amazing," she recounts. "It makes me want to cry when I talk about it because whatever we gave them, even if it was something small, even a candy, they were all excited and speechless. It meant a lot to them."

Longchap funded her trip thanks to OJ's Eenou Development Corporation, which has a budget for overseas travel like this. Her husband Gilles St. Gelais received funding from the Eenuch Association and they paid for the rest. Money donations came from the communities of Mistissini, Waskaganish, Waswanipi, and Ouje-Bougoumou. In Malawi, part of the funding went towards providing transportation and meals for the women's retreat, as it's usually a two-day's walk away. In Kenya, the money went to the teachers' salaries for the orphanages. And in Uganda it helped fund new uniforms for the children.

Of her overall experience, Longchap says, "I was sad to see the poverty, shocked and speechless. It's so sad. I used to see Africans on TV and it would make me cry. It's shocking to go there and actually see it. But being there and seeing what the others have done already, there's been a lot of progress. They have more food and are healthier."

Their first stop was Malawi, where they are building an orphanage and school. They are going to dedicate the first orphanage to the memory of Longchap's son, Clint St-Gelais. He passed away last Sept. 25 at the age of 26 from a rare form of leukemia.

Says Longchap: "I was speechless when they said that. So our goal is to help them build the orphanage, to look for the donations to help them build it. It's going to cost \$35,000 (US) so we are doing our part there. I'm planning to go back again. It's something to see. It's a dream come true for me."

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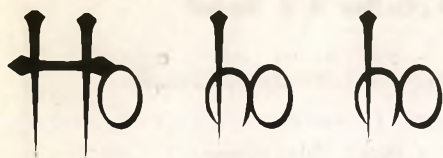
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illustration

for the Legend:

Waawitwaanuu

by Brian Webb



by Sonny Orr

I always wished that Santa Claus was a real person when I was a kid, and in many ways, I wish he was real today. Not that I really want to believe in Santa, but mainly so that he could take on the responsibilities of giving out those expensive gifts to those who you wish would return the favour and also to take out all the hassle of shopping. Don't get me wrong, I'm not a Scrooge in any sense, but sometimes I do wish that Santa was around all year round, just to make my wallet feel better.

If Santa were real, most stores would not be in existence today and those countries that deal in petroleum products wouldn't be as rich as they are today, given the fact that old fashioned wooden toys have been replaced by plastic products. I suppose I shouldn't wish for things to change as much, as I do get a kick out of trying out those fancy gadget toys before wrapping them (just to make sure that they work, of course). The things I do like about Christmas are the warm feeling you get from all those holiday spirits (not eggnog of course) and the songs that seem to spring out from every radio station and every television commercial. It is also a joyous occasion for those who are full of Christmas cheer and goodwill (until the Visa statement comes in and reality sinks in) and the games and dances that we, as Cree, often do.

Perhaps it's the snow that abounds on the driveways and storms that close down schools that make winter and Christmas synonymous with holidays and vacations from oft-dreary day-to-day jobs. I think there are other merry folk around who have the tenacity of Santa when it comes to delivering those much-wanted gifts and my hat goes off to those who toil away at the post office. Other people who come to mind are the usually normally sane ones who wait endlessly in line for those much cherished (under stocked and overpriced, I must add) latest-in-demand toys, that cause near riots in overcrowded malls. I suppose that those people have never heard of E-bay.

I could go on and on about the merits of modern day Christmas, but I notice trends in our communities that are unique in this country. There tends to be a certain frenzy when it comes to Bingo games, with sponsors glorifying ever increasing prizes and chances are, more often than not, that more people are disappointed losers than there are ecstatic actual winners. Thus, I've wrote an ode to Christmas Bingos and it's sung to the tune of Noel, Noel.

B, In, G O
B, In, G, Ooo
Borne of the need to pay for things in need,

With the first number called,
The dabber falls,
On the pot of gold number,
Such is the game of B, I, N, G, O

B, In, G, O
B, In, G, O (crescendo)

B, In, G, O
Borne of the need to pay for those in need,
When do I call for my winning number?
Just at the time of the cry, asunder-
B, In, G, O
B, In, G, O (crescendo)

I rest my case.

When, in one impossible day, that my belief in Christmas returns to the original meaning of the whole Noel scene, that of a special baby borne in a manger who changed the world.

Merry Christmas to all.!



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LES HEBDOS SÉLECT DU QUÉBEC
WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE FINANCIAL
SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA,
THROUGH THE CANADA MAGAZINE FUND

Robert Nault sent packing

Andy Mitchell is the new federal minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Mitchell, MP for the Ontario riding of Parry Sound—Muskoka, was sworn in Dec. 12 after new Prime Minister Paul Martin took his own oath of office.

Mitchell replaces Robert Nault, who lost his cabinet job. Nault had been known to butt heads with Native leaders in the past; this change will have a significant impact on Canada's Aboriginal population.

Nault's advocacy of bill C-7, otherwise known as the First Nations Governance Act, had been a contentious issue in Aboriginal communities the last couple years. Many demonstrations were held to oppose the bill before it passed in the House of Commons. Aboriginal representatives got a break when Martin publicly expressed his opposition to the bill and let it be known that once he took over from Jean Chretien, he would do everything in his power to stop it from becoming law.

Although it's not quite clear at this point what kind of relationship Mitchell will have with First Nations bands across Canada, Native leaders expect it to be more amicable than before.

Brian Craik, spokesman for the Grand Council of the Crees, said that while they are unfamiliar with Mitchell's approach, the Grand Council is encouraged by the new PM's willingness to deal fairly with Native people.

"We're encouraged by his appointment because it looks like Paul Martin is taking an interest in Aboriginal matters," Craik said. "Even though [Mitchell] is not familiar with Northern Quebec, we understand Mr. Martin is very interested in the Quebec scene."

Caribou on the run: warning in effect

The Caribou are on the move, mostly on the Route du Nord, and as a result there is a Caribou warning in effect. If you see them on the roads, use extra caution. The Caribou are not aggressive by nature, however they can be dangerous if they are spooked or wounded. They are reportedly running next to the vehicles, slowing down alongside. There was one reported case of a Caribou charging a vehicle. However, according to tallyman and Director of Public Works for Mistissini Robert Jimikin, it is not in their nature to do such a thing unprovoked.

Normally they show up between Christmas and New Years and are in smaller herds. This year as well as last year, they showed up in the middle of November.

For more information on where the Caribou are, go to: <http://www.fapaq.gouv.qc.ca/en/faune/caribou/>

New Nemaska hotel nearing completion

A new hotel is going up in Nemaska to keep pace with the booming construction going on there since the signing of the Paix des Braves agreement.

In order to better accommodate workers as well as an increase in tourism, Nemaska Development decided to construct a second hotel to go along with the already existing structure. The new hotel will have eight rooms, with two beds per room.

There are still a few things left to be done like installing the ventilation system, but it's expected to be finished by early in the New Year.

Construction started in July, and will have taken five months to complete. The rough estimate of the final cost is said to be around \$320,000.

The hotel is ideally situated near the entrance to the community.

Politician school begins in 2004

Somebody had to cash in on this angle sooner or later and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government wasn't offering it. As a result Negahneewin College of Indigenous Studies, (part of Confederation College, headquartered in Thunder Bay), picked up the ball and ran with it. They will be offering a Bachelor of Applied Human Services in Indigenous Leadership & Community Development. Slated to begin in September 2004, it is the only applied degree being offered by a northern college, and the only Indigenous-specific applied degree in Ontario.

The program will focus on principles of Indigenous leadership to prepare graduates for leadership roles anywhere there is a need for a Native leader.

Graduates will be able to pursue further undergraduate or graduate education in such fields as management, Indigenous governance, public administration and political studies.

A student said, "This program is very important for our community. There are many young people who want this opportunity to grow personally and professionally."

Deadline date for chief wannabes is March 2004. Check out the collage website.



Il y a des limites à tout.

À compter du 1^{er} janvier 2004, de nouvelles dispositions régissant le financement politique fédéral établiront des limites claires pour tous.

- En tant que citoyen canadien ou résident permanent du Canada, vous pouvez verser des contributions maximales de 5 000 \$ par année à chaque parti politique enregistré, y compris à ses associations de circonscription enregistrées, ses candidats à l'investiture et ses candidats.
- Vous pouvez également verser des contributions maximales de 5 000 \$ aux candidats à la direction d'un parti enregistré pour chaque course à la direction, et de 5 000 \$ par élection à chaque candidat qui ne représente pas un parti enregistré.
- Le crédit d'impôt maximal a été augmenté à 650 \$ pour les contributions politiques admissibles.
- Les entreprises et les syndicats (sauf quelques exceptions) peuvent apporter des contributions maximales de 1 000 \$ par année aux candidats, aux candidats à l'investiture et aux associations de circonscription enregistrées de chaque parti politique enregistré, et ils peuvent verser des contributions maximales de 1 000 \$ par élection à chaque candidat qui ne représente pas un parti enregistré.
- Les entreprises et les syndicats ne peuvent pas faire de contributions aux partis enregistrés eux-mêmes ou à leurs candidats à la direction.

Pour en savoir plus sur ces dispositions et les nombreux changements importants apportés à la *Loi électorale du Canada*, cliquez sur le cadre «Financement politique» de notre site Web à www.elections.ca ou composez le 1 800 463-6868.



ATS : 1 800 361-8935 pour personnes sourdes ou malentendantes



There's a limit to how much you can give.

Starting on January 1, 2004, new rules governing federal political financing will set out clear limits for everyone.

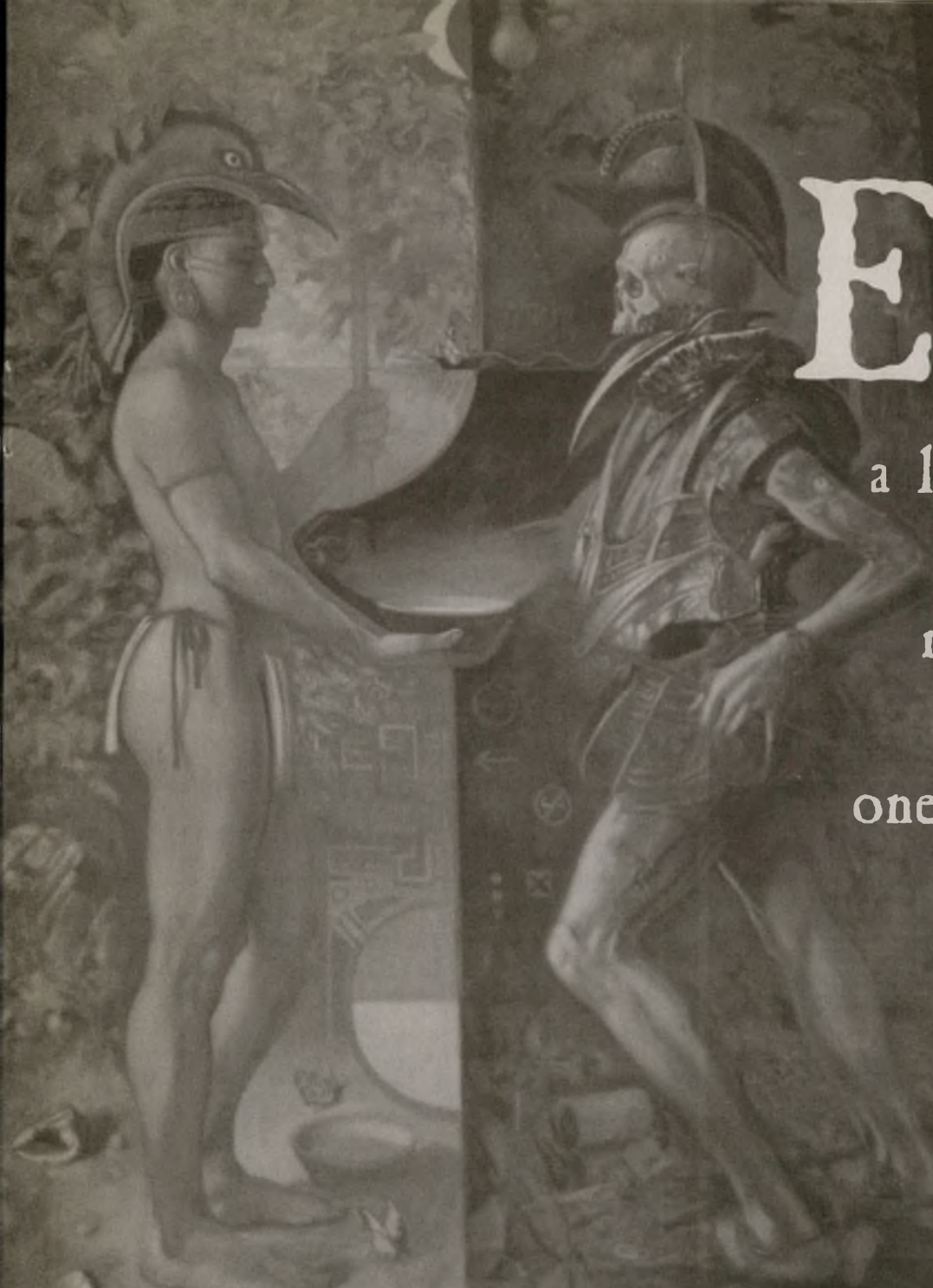
- As a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada, you can give up to \$5,000 in total per year to each registered political party, including its registered riding associations, nomination contestants and candidates.
- You can also give up to \$5,000 in total to the leadership contestants of a registered party per leadership race, and \$5,000 per election to each candidate who is not of a registered party.
- The maximum tax credit has been increased to \$650 for eligible political contributions.
- Corporations and trade unions (with some exceptions) can give up to \$1,000 per year in total to the candidates, nomination contestants and registered riding associations of each registered political party, and can give up to \$1,000 per election to each candidate who is not of a registered party.
- Corporations and trade unions cannot make contributions to the registered parties themselves or to their leadership contestants.

For more details on these and many other important changes to the *Canada Elections Act*, click in the "Political Financing" box on our Web site at www.elections.ca or call 1 800 463-6868.



TTY 1 800 361-8935 for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing





Ecuador...

a land of beauty,
mysteries,
mountains and,
ultimately,
one of paradoxes.

Part 2

by Will Nicholls

This is a continuation from the last issue of our CIDA-funded focus on Indigenous eco tourism in Ecuador.

Lately another attack took place. As a result, the Huaorani have demanded that the "timber merchants" move away from their land.

Moi Enomenga, along with the Organization of the Huaorani Nationality of the Ecuadorian Amazonia (ONHAE), say the forestry operations are killing the Huaorani way of life. The Huaorani leader of the Tigüino zone, Enqueri Eguenquimi, said there are three possible victims of the attack on the Taromenane clan by a group of as yet non-identified timber merchants.

Eguenquimi, former president of ONHAE, said "there are possibly more victims" after the attack by the timber merchants where the Taromenane clan live at the edges of provinces of Orellana and Pastaza.

FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

CHANGES TO EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Do your earnings vary from week to week?

Do you work part time or have temporary work?

Changes to Employment Insurance (EI) may benefit you.

The Government of Canada is increasing the Small Weeks threshold to \$225. When you qualify for EI and we calculate your benefit rate, we will, where possible, ignore weeks where your earnings fall below this level.

This change could increase your EI benefit.

Why is the Government of Canada making this change?

These improvements will encourage Canadians to accept work weeks of lesser pay without lowering their Employment Insurance benefit rate on a future claim.

The new threshold of \$225 for a regular week of work (up from \$150) reflects increases in Canadian wages.

This change makes EI more responsive to the needs of Canadian workers.

Some things remain the same:

- All insurable hours will still be used for eligibility purposes, even if they are not used to calculate your benefit rate.
- You must continue to report all earnings in the weeks you earn them.
- Earnings allowed while on claim are \$50 per week or 25 percent of your weekly benefit rate, whichever is higher.
- Employers must continue to remit EI premiums on every dollar paid and complete Records of Employment.

For information on Small Weeks:

☎ **1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232)**

TTY: 1 800 465-7735

🌐 www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/ei



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He went on to say that there were around 20 attackers armed with rifles, who shot Natives armed only with spears. The Huaorani leader said that they are coordinating a trip with members of the Office of the Public Prosecutor in Ecuador "to make the investigations of this new fact of blood."

"We are alarmed and have assumed martial law because of this incident," said Armando Boya, ONHAE's current president. "We are not going to allow timber merchants to continue entering our territory."



The ever so helpful police are always willing to pose for a tourist photo.

The indigenous organization spread bulletins saying they "will take actions into their own hands to expel by force if necessary the timber merchants, who still continue removing the wood from the territory without the authorization of the Huaorani leadership."

Eguenquimi announced that they will request the intervention in this subject from the minister of Government, Felipe Mantilla. The Ecuadorian government has promised to look into the matter and "conduct operations in the area."

Moi feels that eco-tourism is one of the few ventures that can end this cycle of violence and degradation of the environment.

Moi feels that eco-tourism is one of the few ventures that can end this cycle of violence and degradation of the environment. He says that a trip to the Huaorani territory is a very special experience. TROPIC's Ayala agrees, saying the eco-tourist package will take you to one of the most ecologically important areas on the planet in the company of a unique rainforest culture. "Your visit will provide an important income which will reinforce and promote the long term conservation of their cultural identity and their nurturing environment," says Ayala.

Meanwhile, Moi is looking for funding to journey to Canada and the United States to talk about his peoples' plight, before they are wiped out as a people and a culture. You can get hold of Moi through the TROPIC website or by phoning them at (593-2) 2225 907 (ask for Pablo Ayala and tell him Will Nicholls sent you).

For more information go to www.tropiceco.com.

Eco-business and First Nations

Next up was Edwin Piedra, an Ecuadorian Aboriginal who had been exposed to outside influences a lot earlier than the Huaorani. Piedra is the top man in Ecuador for AmazonGas, a business owned by Natives in the Amazon. This is, in fact, the first time in the history of Ecuador that Natives are participating in the oil and gas industry. They are looking at a partnership with Keyano Pimee Exploration Company Ltd, which is owned by the Canadian First Nations of Saddle Lake and Whitefish (Goodfish) Lake, Alberta.

The idea is simple. For over a decade oil fields on Native lands in Ecuador have been burning natural gas in the process of retrieving the oil. AmazonGas and its partners want to take the natural gas and process it for sale. The profits would benefit Aboriginal peoples in Ecuador and Canada. Piedra says that they are looking for more partnerships with Native peoples.



Member of the Huaorani tribe.

"We share political experiences and culture," said Piedra. "I feel it's very important that we start a process with Natives in Canada. An interesting question is that if the territories of Natives are rich in resources, why are we poor? We should be doing something about Native poverty and the time to act is now."

He also feels that Canada is bringing security to a project like this. Piedra says 25 members of Native communities in Ecuador are attending classes at the University of Calgary. "This will give the Native people power in future negotiations," he explained.



JOB OPPORTUNITY

TLBSM Joint Venture in which Labo S.M. is a partner is required to carry out quality assurance control for the construction of a dam, a power station and dikes for a hydroelectric project –namely Eastmain-1.

We are currently seeking individuals for soil testing control, our on site laboratory and/or setting up the work site.

Individuals that have graduated as a civil engineer technician will be given priority. However, anyone possessing aptitudes in sciences with basic knowledge of English or French, may be eligible for the training program for this project.

We expect to recruit eight (8) people between now and the end of January 2004 and train them on this territory during the Winter of 2004 in order to assign the recruited staff to the Eastmain-1 site at the beginning of April/May 2004 to be overseen by a team leader. These positions will be for work from May/June to November 2004 and 2005.

Requirements:

- Minimum education Secondary III
- Secondary V –Diploma (will have priority)
- Aptitude for sciences
- Knowledge of English or French language
- Salary and work conditions according to SEBJ pay standards.

Interested applicants may submit their curriculum vitae by mail, fax or by e-mail as soon as possible since training is expected to begin in January 2004.

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Traditional marketplace displaying hand made pottery.

Piedra says a natural gas plant makes environmental and economic sense for the Natives of Ecuador. "The gas has been burning and polluting for years. This damages the environment and helps nobody." He said the money will go to further help the impoverished economies of the Native communities. Piedra said that economic development is already happening. Many communities make things that are needed by other Native communities in an interlocking manner. One might grow a certain type of food and another make certain goods that are needed by all and they trade or buy from each other which benefits all.



Town Square and traditional marketplace.

The natural gas plant project sees Keyano Pimee owning 45 per cent of the project and AmazonGas owning 55 per cent, with 70 per cent of the funding to come from a World Bank loan. Petroecuador, a government agency, has approved the construction of a natural gas plant.

Eco-business with a difference

In southern Ecuador you won't find many men but more and more are starting to return. It's because of two things; the Fondo Ecuatoriano (an agency started and funded by the Canadian government) and a unique product, the Panama hat.



The story starts with the fact this area of Ecuador is so poor that the men have to leave to find work elsewhere so their families don't starve. The men go to work as merchant marines in Spain and Brazil or as migrant workers cutting sugar cane on the west coast. In the past when the men would return from the coast, they would bring back paja toquilla. This is the special straw used to make the famous Panama Hat. With help from the fund, a former hospital was converted to a factory to make the Panama hats and other woven goods.



Panama hats in production.

The women weave constantly, while walking, talking, sitting or moving, their hands are in constant motion. They know they are weaving a better life for the future generations to come. The women themselves are amazing. They organized themselves to look at their problems and how to deal with them.

Today the group sells to a shop in New York where hats are sold for over \$200 US each. A European market is beginning to open up for these women. Women are being sent out for

training so they can take more control of their lives and future. The factory is in the process on being upgraded as more orders flow in. A concern for the environment sees more eco-friendly dyes being used these days. Older weavers are passing on their skills.

It is truly amazing what can be accomplished when people put their mind to it. It was great that they had the opportunity to do this because both Canadians and Ecuadorians came together to help them begin to dream of the future.

The women have a motto, "la calidad esta en mis manos", or "quality is in my hands." This means that every woman has the power to improve and better market their products. It is a serious motto for a serious organization of women.

Most families in the region used to live on an average of \$359 US a year. The new money coming in pays for better health care, nutrition and education. Children won't have to work at such an early age because of it. The women are looking at sending people out to school. In the end, besides providing a base for an economy, the Panama hat may fulfill a dream for a better future, one that will see the men come home.

Note: Thanks to all the staff at the Canadian Embassy in Ecuador for their invaluable assistance. Without their kind assistance and briefings this reporter would have been floundering on the shores of a foreign land.

Beesum Communications and The Nation Magazine would like to acknowledge that this story was produced with the support of the Government of Canada through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Without them, this story would not have been possible.



Members of the Huaorani tribe in their traditional attire.

A black and white photograph of a snowy forest scene. In the foreground, a large pile of cut logs is covered in snow. Several tall, thin evergreen trees stand in the background, their branches also dusted with snow. The ground is a smooth, white expanse of snow.

The new Cree-Quebec Forestry Board has begun its work and I am sure that Deputy Grand Chief Paul Gull will see to it that this forum becomes the effective means for dealing with forestry issues that it has the potential to be. For the first time we have Crees involved in the planning of the



Grand Chief Dr. Ted Moses

annual cut and we have special measures to help to lessen the impacts of forestry on the trappers. This forum could also have role in promoting the increased involvement of Crees in the employment opportunities provided by forestry.

This year we also have more people in training to take on permanent employment with Hydro Quebec and as well in the forestry, mining, tourism, transportation and construction sectors. All of these are key to the development of Eeyou Istchee and of our Cree economy. We now also have Cree Wildlife Protection Officers who are going to help promote the proper use of resources by the Crees and by the Quebecois residents and visitors to Eeyou Istchee. The hiring of these officers was promised in 1975 and with the New Relationship Agreement we have finally secured their role in the governance of Eeyou Istchee. They are part of the increasing recognition of the Eeyou Tabeytachesiw in the management of the resources on Eeyou Istchee.

The health negotiations are also in an advanced stage. We will soon see more construction in the communities to support social service and health workers needed to help us deal with the problems such as diabetes or stemming from experiences at residential school and from the rapid changes in our way of life. We can beat these problems. Remember that the decisions that you make each day can be part of the solution.

Quebec, Premier Charest continues to prove his commitment to working with the Cree Nation. I personally thank him for his honesty and perseverance in resolving outstanding issues. I also thank all of those who work for him and who carry out their work in a respectful and concerted manner. The latest agreement on the past obligations of Hydro Quebec testifies to Premier Charest's commitment and effectiveness in solving problems.

I congratulate the people of Chisasibi for having voted to accept the agreement that resolves these long-standing issues. This agreement provides for a way of permanently addressing the concerns of the people of Chisasibi and will provide employment and increased ability to deal with the different types of long term impacts on the communities that come from the La Grande Project. It is time to build for the future of our Proud Cree Nation!

We have resolved many problems with Quebec and we have our relationship with the province on a firm footing. However, there is much to be done to improve relations with Canada. While Canada has said in the past that it wants to resolve problems in the implementation of the James Bay Agreement, it is itself now considering legal action against Quebec on some of the Agreement issues. I have proposed to the new Prime Minister's team that this is not the way to go. We have also proposed a new direction for Canada, one that would recognize the place of the Crees in the development of the region and one that would increase Canada's investment in development. I have suggested that the policy of Canada must be one that recognizes the special rights and role that the Crees have as a nation within Quebec and Canada. I do not believe that Canada's continued war on the collective rights of aboriginal peoples in Canada should continue. Our strength and continued ability to survive as distinct cultures depends on our recognition as nations.

I take this opportunity to thank the Deputy Grand Chief Paul Gull and the Cree Chiefs and members of the Council-Board for their hard work and demonstrated will to work together. I thank the staff and the advisors that have worked so hard over the last year and who have been key to our successes.

My wife Elsa and our family pray that the Cree Nation, the Eeyouch, will have a prolific and peaceful year in 2004.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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Waawitwaanuu

Told by Job Kawapit
Translated by Brian Webb

This is an old legend. People camped together out on the land. There was one young man who was not married. He lived with his younger sister. The leader of this camp was named Waawitwaanuu (Laughs A Lot). All the men of the camp aggressively pursued the young sister; even Waawitwaanuu was in on it. But the young man protected his younger sister from being molested. Since the men couldn't have their way with the young woman, they began spreading false rumours about the brother and sister. "He wants his younger sister all for himself. That man is having sex with his younger sister." This was the talk going around the camp. Hatred began to build for the young brother and sister. The men were so frustrated since the young woman did not allow their advances. As the group was getting ready to move camp, everyone said, "Let's beat them up." The men swarmed the young brother and sister and tore off all their clothes and tied them together. The men tied the young brother and sister together as if they were in a sexual position.

Everyone else laughed and made fun of them. As everyone stood around the two, some of the men kicked the young man's lower back to make him look like he was sexually thrusting himself. "Now everyone can see that he has sex with his younger sister!" The aggressors didn't stop hitting the young man across his lower back. The young man's back became raw from the welts and was bleeding heavily. The two siblings bound together were totally helpless. After the group had their morbid fun, they said, "Let's go. Let those two freeze together." The entire camp began to drift into the forest leaving the two naked siblings bound together.

An old woman took her time packing her belongings onto her toboggan for the journey. She was considered Grandmother by the two young siblings. As the entire group abandoned the old campsite, she went to her grandchildren. She untied them and gave them clothes to put on. The young man was so severely injured on his lower back that he could not move. They helped him get dressed. The young man said to his grandmother, "Don't mind what they did to me. I'm sure they'll be back for me again. Continue living with them."

The young man owned a little puppy and was very good at finding game. The young man said to his grandmother, "Take my puppy with you. He'll hunt for you because those people will experience great hunger. You will not be hungry because my puppy will hunt for you. When the people are on the move, the puppy will run off into the bush as you get near the new campsite. That is where you'll find porcupine. Those people will not feed you if they have food. Make sure you live in your own lodge. Feed my puppy the porcupine also. Make sure he doesn't go hungry. If you find

a porcupine, hide it from the rest. Only when their fire had died down and they're fully asleep, prepare your porcupine to eat. Make sure they don't know what you're doing." Grandmother left with the puppy and followed the group's trail.

The young man ordered his younger sister to make a teepee. "We'll stay here because I can't move around. I cannot look at you also because something will happen to you if I do." The young sister made their lodge. She brought in her older brother. The young man sat with his back to his sister all the time. "Be sure never to go into my view."

He said to his younger sister, "Chop a small brush and stand it at the middle of the lake ice. If someone walks by, he'll know we're in the area. Stand the brush so I could see it when you open the door flap." The young woman chopped a small tree and dragged it out onto the lake ice. She returned, "Brother, I stood the brush on the ice. I'll open the door flap for you to see." She opened the door flap. "I do see it, it's standing over there."

One day, ptarmigan flew to the brush on the ice and landed around it. "Brother, a lot of ptarmigan have landed around your brush." "Sister, open the door flap. Let me see them. But make sure I don't see you." The young woman opened the door flap. "Brother, you can look at them now." "Yes, I see them; there's a lot. You can close the door now."

The young woman was busy around the camp during the day. As evening fell, she mentioned to her brother, "Those ptarmigan are still there." He said, "When you check your nightlines this evening, walk towards them to see if they'll fly away." The young woman checked her nightlines. After finishing her route, she walked towards the ptarmigan. None of them moved. When she reached them, they were all dead. She picked them up and mentioned it to her brother. He answered, "Clean them and we'll eat them."

Then one day, there was a herd of caribou standing around the brush. She mentioned, "Caribou are standing around our brush." "Sister, open the door flap." She opened the flap and said, "Look at them now." As the man looked at the caribou from inside the teepee, the caribou dropped down as if they were sitting.

In the evening, the caribou were still there. "Brother, those caribou are still there." "Sister, when you check your nightlines, walk towards them to see when they'll run away." The young woman checked her nightlines in the evening.

After checking her lines, she walked towards the caribou. None of the caribou moved. They were all dead. She mentioned it to her brother. He told her to drag the caribou back to camp and to take care of the

APITISIIWIN CORPORATION

HIRING INITIATIVES COORDINATOR

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is an entity created pursuant to the Eeyou Apatisiwin Niskamon (Cree Employment Agreement) executed between the Crees and Hydro-Quebec on February 7th, 2002. The main objective of the Corporation is to provide Cree candidates in sufficient number who will meet Hydro-Quebec's hiring requirements in order to have, by March 31st, 2017, a minimum of 150 Crees hired in permanent positions in the James Bay Territory.

JOB DESCRIPTION

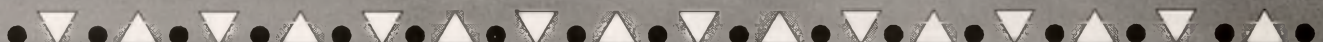
- Develop, plan, propose and coordinate the implementation of hiring initiatives to provide to Hydro-Quebec a sufficient number of Cree candidates who meet its hiring requirements.
 - Collaborate with Cree School Board to provide training activities to Cree candidates that will allow them to meet Hydro-Quebec academic requirements.
 - Work in collaboration with Cree School Board to develop career guidance programs, scholarships, prizes, in-house training to encourage James Bay Crees to meet Hydro-Quebec hiring requirements.
 - Organize specific training or upgrading activities that will prepare candidates to meet Hydro-Quebec hiring requirements.
 - Follow on a monthly basis the Hydro-Quebec employment needs for the James Bay Region.
 - Review on a regular basis the application of Cree employment priorities for Hydro-Quebec positions within the James Bay Region.
 - Make sure that Hydro-Quebec undertakes every two years a review of its employment practices and its working conditions toward Cree work force.
- Participate with Hydro-Quebec at the annual information campaign concerning employment opportunities in the James Bay Region.
 - Propose and follow the annual budget related to hiring initiatives activities.
 - Act as Apatisiwin representative in relation to different organizations such as Cree School Board, Cree Human Resources Development.
 - Supervise and evaluate the support staff under his or her responsibility.

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When they killed one beaver, the meat would be cooked and when it was done, the beaver meat was scooped out of the cooking pot and covered. Waawitwaanuu prepared the beaver meat. When the meat was uncovered, the meat was the size of two beavers. The young man who was tied up knew what Waawitwaanuu was doing. Once the young man

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The young man at the camp said to his sister, "The people are coming back to us. Be sure to make a coat for yourself with the wolf skins and use one whole wolf skin as a cape. When we'll be expecting them to

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arrive, peg a caribou hide in the snow at the edge of the trees and scrape it. Be sure to be scraping a caribou hide as they arrive. Cook good food for them too beforehand." The older brother told her exactly what to do. She agreed.

Waaawitwaanuu's group was on the move, going back to eat their victims. The brother told his sister that the people would be arriving the next day. "Cook food during the day and stretch out a caribou hide and scrape it at the edge of the trees." She agreed. She cooked during the day. She cooked the good food. He said, "When they reach you, tell them that you had prepared food for them because they'll be very hungry. But tell them that I want to talk to them before they eat." She did what her brother told her. She cooked during the day into the evening. "Sister, peg a caribou hide in the snow and scrape it. Be sure to wear your wolf skin coat and drape the cape over your head as you scrape."

After cooking, she laid the food around the fire ready for the feast. She went out and worked on the caribou hide. Waawitwaanuu and his group reached the lake of the camp from the other side. It was a very calm winter day and everything was so clearly heard. As the group walked onto the ice, they saw something moving around at the spot where they tied the brother and sister together. They all stood still. They heard the sound of the scraping. Waawitwaanuu said, "Look at the wolf eating the ones we came for. The wolf is eating before us. The wolf is pissing me off. The wolf is eating what he didn't tie up. Let's go before he finishes everything." Waawitwaanuu was hoping for some leftovers.

As they got closer, they noticed the young woman was scraping a caribou hide. She was the one who they tied up. The young man in the teepee made sure they would have a good laugh when they came in. The young woman had made the fire big inside the teepee. The young man took off his robe and turned his back to the fire to warm it up, exposing his injured back.

They walked towards the young woman and saw all the food around the camp. The young woman said to the people, "You see all the food around



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here. I've already prepared the feast inside. Go in. My brother is inside. But before you eat, my brother wants to talk to you. After he talks to you, you guys can eat." They were all extremely hungry.

The people entered the teepee. They saw the young man's back right away as he was warming up. They saw his battered back. They all wanted to laugh but tried to contain their laughter. The sister called from outside, "Brother, everyone is inside now. You can talk to them now before they eat." The young man turned around. He glanced at the person right beside him and the person collapsed. The young man reached out to catch him. "What's wrong? You gathered in for the feast also. You'll be eating soon."

As the young man glanced at everyone inside the teepee, the people collapsed. As the ones near the door saw this happening, they knew it was his glance killing everyone. They rushed for the door. Waawitwaanuu rushed to go out also. The young man didn't look at Waawitwaanuu completely. He just looked at Waawitwaanuu's lower half. Waawitwaanuu was paralyzed from the waist down. Waawitwaanuu managed to crawl out of the teepee. And everyone else was dead inside the teepee.

The young man called for her sister, "Come in and drag these bodies out of here. Do you see that one crawling out? Just club him over the head!" As Waawitwaanuu dragged himself out of the teepee, the young woman took a stick and clubbed him over the head. That was how Waawitwaanuu died. She dragged out all the bodies from the teepee.

After dragging the bodies out, the young man said to his sister, "Look for Grandmother to arrive. I'm sure she lagged behind the group." The young woman kept a lookout for their grandmother. Not long after, she could see Grandmother emerging from the forest as she walked onto the ice across the lake. She called to her brother, "Grandmother is walking towards us." "Is the puppy still with her?" "Yes, I do see the puppy with her."

Grandmother reached the camp. She told Grandmother, "Go in. I pre-

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Grandmother said, "Grandchild, now you can find your strength and determination. This will be how you'll survive. If I didn't fix your eyes, you'd make the earth a pitiful place. Grandmother healed the young man. This is the legend of Waawitwaanuu and how he was vanquished.

We acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts which last year invested \$21.7 million in writing and publishing throughout Canada.

December 26, 2003 *the Nation* 21



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VAL D'OR CREE TOURNAMENT 2003

by Jeff Spencer

A Spiritual Journey

December 4 – 7, 2003 marked another weekend in Val d'Or where the Cree Nation gathers each year for the Annual Hockey and Broomball Invitational now known as the C.R.E.E. Tournament. All nine Eeyou Istchee Cree communities along with the west side of James Bay, and other Nations come together in sport and spirit. And spirit would mark this weekend. In the end, two Mistissini teams, the Class A Trappers and Class B Falcons, left victorious.

This has special meaning as these were the teams that the late young talent Mark Petawabano had graced with his skills and strength. On each lineup were family and friends that had made the journey to Val d'Or with pride and heartache, wanting to win it for Mark and at the same time missing his presence both on and off the ice.

Yet in talking with his brother and cousins, you begin to feel their sense of elation; that they had not played alone at all that weekend and that there was a feeling however great of Mark's presence. It gives one chills as this is described. Paul Iserhoff, who had coached Mark and played with him and the rest of that great hockey family, was behind the bench and said he did not know how many times he, out of habit, quickly said in the overtime. "Lets go Mark, you're next."

And to see Michael Petawabano, Mark's brother, and Michael's two sons Joel and Ryan, skate to pick up the award for Class B Champions wearing their beloved Falcons sweaters is a memory that all in attendance bearing witness will never forget.

Former Youth Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff, who was in attendance for the finals, said that the Class B was the most emotional victory he had ever seen, noting though that many had the sense of

something missing all weekend – yet also felt Mark's presence. For the second time in less than a month the two Mistissini teams came home victorious.

We know that this is the beginning of a long journey of healing for the Petawabano family, the community of Mistissini and in fact the entire Cree Nation, the hockey world and all the people that were touched by this young life, so the crowning of Class A and Class B Champions will be cherished in his memory.

Below is a tribute by Donald Nicholls, after talking with family that participated in Val d'Or and the C.R.E.E. Tournament this past week.

A Tribute To Hockey and One of Its Best

Hockey is all about heart. It builds on talent, makes legends and heart is most certainly an essential ingredient for great hockey. And this is what the fans were treated to this year in Val d'Or at the Cree National Invitational Hockey Tournament this past weekend. Assembled this year for the tournament were the best of the Cree communities and then some. They included a dream team coming out of Maniwaki, the Algonquin Blades, lead by former professional players like John Chabot of the Pittsburgh Penguins, and Chris Brant, who holds an American Hockey League Championship ring and just returned from playing professional hockey in Europe. It was the organizers' hopes to bring in high calibre entertainment this year by expanding the rules to allow more outside players.

There were some scouts in the crowd watching on. Hockey in the Cree Nation has evolved over the past while to an exceptional level. The calibre of players both men and women are increasingly attracting more attention of Canadian

hockey programs and leagues.

So, back to Val d'Or, the best and most talented were there, well, with the exception of one. An important hockey player who unfortunately left us too soon (this summer) and who likely would have been playing in a Major hockey program this year, was absent. Or was he? Mark Petawabano inspired and touched many Cree and non-native fans throughout his life and a good number of the hockey players in Val d'Or this year wore his jersey number 9 on their hockey helmets for this tournament.

The two Mistissini teams that he most often played on wanted to win this tournament for their missed teammate who was always a pleasure to be with on or off the ice. On both the Men's Class A and Class B teams, were his brothers, nephews, cousins and friends. They went to Val d'Or with a mission – to win this one for Mark. They wanted to bring Mark to Val d'Or for a tournament he should have been at. In truth, he was there; he added the winning ingredient – heart. The scouts, the fans, the visitors to this tournament, all agreed the Cree Nation has a wealth of hockey talent but what impressed them the most was the character and heart that the teams played with. The Class B finals was a tough battle that went into double overtime. The Mistissini Falcons had Mark's brother and nephews on the team, his father was on the sidelines and before the game his cousin, Philip, spoke words of inspiration and remembrance. The reward, a victory for them with many more tears than cheers – it was the only real way to show someone that meant so much to us all, just how much we missed and appreciated him.

In the Men's Class A finals, on the Mistissini Trappers, his brother, brother-in-law, cousins and close friends played hard against the

Maniwaki dream team. Before the game, his father, brother, nephews and cousin, Philip, went into the locker room with tears and words of encouragement for the other team Mark most often played on. Emotions were high, there was no thought they would not win this one, the players all stopped to hug Mark's dad on the way out of the dressing room. The pace was fast, hockey was at its best, the Mistissini goalie with a serious eye infection had a shutout. The final score was 2 - 0. Again, it was a game about heart, with talent, sweat and tears in the mix but most certainly it was a team inspired. This is perhaps something organizers, fans or other players were not privileged to, these two teams came to give a tribute to a great player and friend, and they would not disappoint. Therefore, those players, brothers, nephews, brother-in-law, cousins and friends dedicate the games and spirit of their play to Mark Petawabano, who was with them throughout this tournament in so many ways.

The final verdict of the scouts and professional hockey players in attendance, is something most of us have always talked about, the Cree Nation has enough talent to form semi-professional hockey team. For years, we have been talking about the need to take this exceptional group of hockey players to Europe to not only showcase the talent to open up opportunities but be ambassadors of our Nation. It would be a dream for most, a reward for those who are dedicated and an opportunity for some, especially if a younger team went on tour as well.

by Donald Nicholls

C.R.E.E. Tournament 2003 Edition

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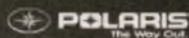
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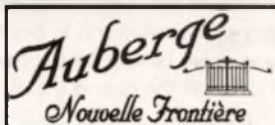
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VAL D'OR CREE TOURNAMENT 2003 *continued*

well, only those that were there can describe the rest. In all the 2003 Edition of the newly named Cree Regional Events and Entertainment (C.R.E.E.) Senior Hockey and Broomball Tournament was once again a fun-filled action-packed event giving the people what they had come to see – great sporting action in a cultural setting.

In observing the number of participants and spectators that

attended this years' event, Jean Baptiste Loon, Chairman for the Regional Association Eeyou Istchee, described the weekend as a total success in all areas. The finals of all categories proved to be awe inspiring from the close games in mens' categories and broomball where fans were up and down standing, sitting, standing wondering what would happen next, to the Women's Hockey Final where the Wiki team proved they were here to play hard and take the

Championship home to Ontario for the first time.

One thing that must be duly noted is that the Mistissini Trappers won an unprecedented fourth straight Class "A" Championship at the Cree Nation Tournament. After winning back-to-back Championships in 1993 and 1994, the Trappers regrouped in the first year of the new millennium, "2000" for their third CNIT title. Since then there has been little doubt

about the intensity of this team even when facing adversity. Playing the Algonquin Blades in the finals, many considered there would be a new champion, considering the prominent participants including John Chabot and Christ Brant. Yet that and the fact that Trappers goaltender Luke Mianscum could hardly see due to a serious eye infection (his heart carried him) were not enough to dethrone the defending Champions.

RECREATIONAL CATEGORY FINALS:

Champions	Val-D'or Friendship Center	3
Finalists	Kitcisakik	2

Individual Awards:

Best Goalie	Edmond Brazeau - Kitcisakik
Best Defense	Noel Lacroix - Val-D'or
Top Scorer	Robert Gilpin
Best Forward	Carlo Peneshue
MVP	Steven Boudrias - Val d'Or

OLD-TIMER'S FINALS:

Champions	Waswanipi Big Chiefs	6 (OVERTIME)
Finalists	Mist-Rusty Blades	5

Individual Awards:

Best Goalie	Jim Hester - Waskaganish
Best Defense	Philip Neeposh - Mistissini
Top Scorer	Philip Neeposh - Mistissini
Best Forward	Eric Stevens - Waskaganish
MVP	Matthew Swallow - Mistissini

WOMEN'S HOCKEY FINALS:

Champions	Wikiwemikong Northern Storm	12
Finalists	Mistissini Bratz	3

Individual Awards:

Best Goalie	Denise Boisoneault - Wikiwemikong
Best Defense	Charlene Hare - Wiki
Top Scorer	Jewyl Matoush - Mist.. Bratz
Best Forward	Janette Bundy - Wiki
MVP	Jewyl Matoush - Mist, Bratz

BROOMBALL CATEGORY "B" FINALS:

Champions	Chisasibi	2
Finalists	Waskaganish	1

Individual Awards:

Best Goalie	Tina Stewart - Chisasibi
Best Defense	Linda Martin-Hunter - Chisasibi
Top Scorer	Edith-Ann Hester - Waskaganish
MVP	Katherine Wash - Chisasibi

BROOMBALL CATEGORY "A" FINALS:

Champions	Waswanipi N-Stars	2 (SHOOTOUT)
Finalists	Waskaganish	1

No scoring during overtime. Game went to second round of Shoot out.

Individual Awards:

Best Goalie	Eileen Moses - Waskaganish
Best Defense	Melanie Neeposh - Waswanipi
Top Scorer	Micheline Saganash - Waswanipi
Best Forward	Cynthia Salt - Waskaganish
MVP	Christina Awashish - Waswanipi

CATEGORY CLASS "C" FINALS:

Champions	Waskaganish Braves	1 (OVERTIME)
Finalists	Waskaganish Grand-Chiefs	0

O.T Goal scored by: Gordon Hester Wask - Braves

Individual Awards:

Best Goalie	Waylon Salt - Waskaganish Grand-Chiefs
Best Defense	Gordon Hester - Waskaganish Braves
Best Forward	David Jonah - Waskaganish
Top Scorer	John Mowatt - Pikogan
MVP:	Wilfred Moses - Waskaganish Braves

CATEGORY CLASS "B" FINALS:

Champions	Mistissini Falcons	2 (DOUBLE OVERTIME)
Finalists	Waswanipi	1

Game went into Double Overtime with Jerry Matoush scoring with 3:40 remaining.

Individual Awards:

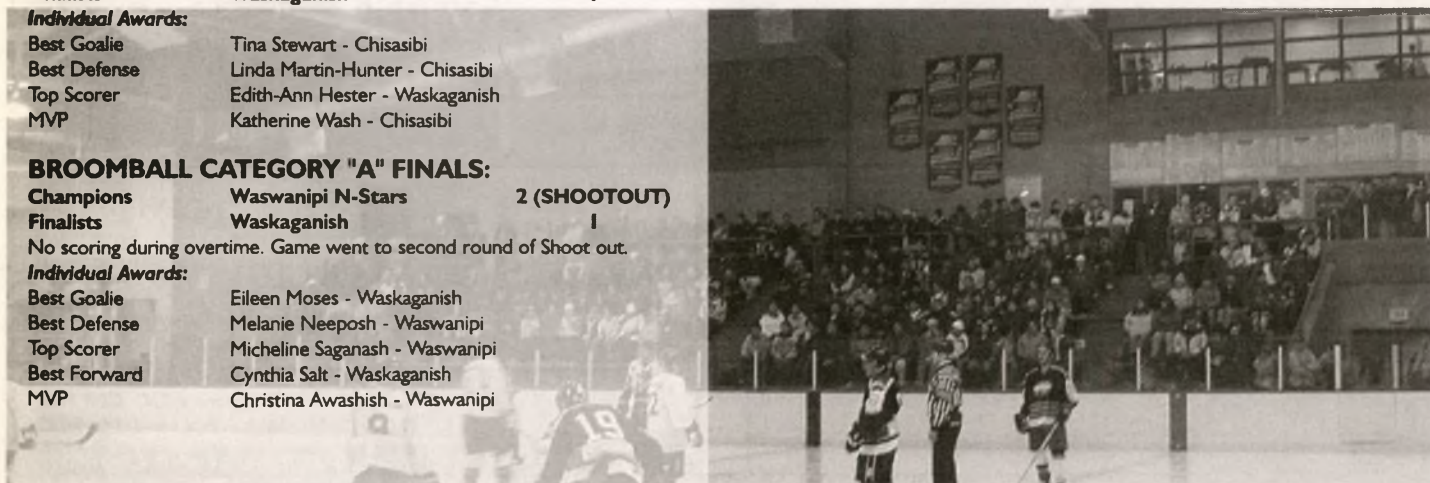
Best Goalie	Lloyd Lafrance - Waswanipi
Best Defense	Philip Petawabano - Mistissini Falcons
Best Forward	Shawn Iserhoff - Mistissini Falcons
Top Scorer	Mara Chilton
MVP	Jerry Matoush - Mistissini Falcons

CLASS "A" CATEGORY FINALS:

Champions	Mistissini Trappers	2
Finalists	Algonquin Blades	0

Individual Awards:

Best Goalie	Luke Mianscum - Mistissini Trappers
Best Defense	Chris Brant - Algonquin Blades
Best Forward	Titus Metabie - Mistissini Trappers
Top Scorer	Ernie Trapper - Mistissini Trappers
MVP	Ernie Trapper - Mistissini Trapper



26 *the Nation* December 26, 2003

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